

SECRET

Personnel: 8

29 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Procurement of Contact Lenses

1. On 27 October 1970 I spoke with [redacted] OGC, concerning the interpretation of Comptroller General Decision B-143437, dated 21 July 1960. This decision established policy with respect to the use of appropriated funds to purchase contact lenses for employees who cannot wear conventional eyeglasses in the performance of their duties. I explained to [redacted] that it was necessary that, as a part of our research and development program, we provide contact lenses to a limited number of personnel to determine whether such lenses should in fact be required for personnel to be assigned to operate new equipment which will be operational in the near future. Our interpretation of the referent decision was that contact lenses could be purchased for personnel on duty prior to 21 July 1960, but that they could not be purchased for personnel employed after that date.

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2. [redacted] said that our interpretation of the decision was not entirely correct. The decision states that "Appropriated funds may be used to purchase the initial set of contact lenses for those highly trained specialists who were fully qualified when assigned originally to their specialized duties, before the introduction of the new equipment; but lenses may not be purchased for new employees who require vision correctives who are engaged to be trained for such work". [redacted] stated that the decision did not prohibit the procurement of lenses for personnel employed after 1960, and that, if we acquired a new, entirely different type of equipment, the same policy could be applied now. That is, we can purchase the initial set of lenses for employees who are fully qualified for their present duties until they are assigned to operate the new equipment. The authority would extend only to the initial set of lenses, and would not extend to personnel who are subsequently employed to operate the new equipment.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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3. I discussed the decision with the Director of Finance, who stated that he concurs in the above interpretation.

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Chief, Support Staff

**Distribution:**

- Orig - NPIC/SS
- 1 - NPIC/Exec Dir
- 1 - NPIC/PPBS
- 1 - NPIC/IEG
- 1 - NPIC/PSG
- 1 - NPIC/TSG
- 1 - NPIC/SS/LB
- 1 - NPIC/SS/FB

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CENTER ROUTING SLIP

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FROM	Exec Dir / NPIC	DATE	26 Oct 1970
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TO	INITIALS	DATE	REMARKS
DIRECTOR			<p>1-2 Bred Per the luncheon discussion today. I presume you are going to touch base informally with OGC and tell them what we propose to do.</p> <p><u>al</u></p> <hr/> <p>al - done -</p> <p>Bred</p> <p>working with TSG + IEB per Mr. H's directions -</p>
DEP. DIRECTOR			
EXEC/DIRECTOR			
SPECIAL ASST	<i>g</i>		
ASST TO DIR			
HISTORIAN			
CH/PPBS			
DEP CH/PPBS			
EXO/PPBS			
CH/SS	<i>2 gma</i>		
DEP CH/SS			
SC & P			
RECORDS MGT			
PERSONNEL			
LOGISTICS			
TRAINING			
SECURITY			
FINANCE			
CH/IEG			
DEP CH/IEG			
EXO/IEG			
CH/PSG			
DEP CH/PSG			
EXO/PSG			
CH/TSG			
DEP CH/TSG			
EXO/TSG			
DIR/IAS/DDI			
CH/DIAAX-4			
CH/DIAAP-9			
CH/SPAD			

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24 Oct 70

✓ Ch, SS  
Ch, PPBS  
Ch, TSG  
Ch, IEG

Re Contact lens' & new  
PI viewing equipment:

- How does this course of  
action sound to you? - -

- We select a few (several)  
PI's who wear eyeglasses,  
equip them with contacts  
at NPIC expense, and ask  
them to participate in a  
investigation the differences.

- Some controls would

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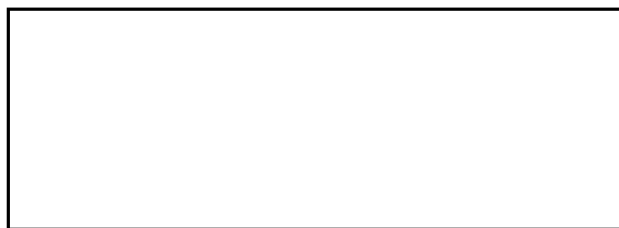
have to be introduced to ensure that we obtain useful results.

~~The results~~

- I should want some <sup>of the</sup> results from comparative use in real, "operational" PI work.

- The results would tell us what we should then do -- go for financing contacts, no go, or some other route.

- If this approach sounds reasonable, TSG should manage it in collab. with IEG.



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